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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the terrible destruction wrought by the United States of America and its allies on Iraq's civilian installations and infrastructures during its military operations, which continued from the night of 16/17 January 1991 to 28 February 1991, clearly showed the tyrannical nature of the United States and its illegitimate use of the cover of international legitimacy and the resolutions of the Security Council for the purpose of destroying an entire people.

The United States was not content with dropping 90,000 tons of bombs on Iraqi towns and installations during more than 100,000 air-raids, but continued flying after the cease-fire on the pretext of reconnaissance, carrying out dense flights in Iraqi airspace, downing unarmed aircraft, destroying tanks, landing airborne troops on roads within Iraq and intercepting Iraqi helicopters carrying out their civilian duties and transporting civilian officials, political figures and delegations of relief agencies within Iraq after the military operations had resulted in the destruction and cutting off of most of the country's land communication routes. The following is a detailed list of these provocative activities:

Date	Details
5 March	17 sorties concentrated over the city of Baghdad and the area to the west of it.
6 March	5 sorties concentrated in the region between Nasiriyah and Kut.
8 March	2 sorties concentrated in the region between Ramadi and Tikrit.
9 March	2 sorties concentrated in the region between eastern Baghdad and Nasiriyah.
10 March	9 sorties concentrated in the region of Haditha, northern Ramadi, southern Baghdad and northern Kut.

Date	Details
11 March	7 sorties concentrated in the southern region between Nasiriyah and southern Baghdad, with one formation that went as far as the region of Mandali and another, as far as Ramadi.
12 March	9 sorties concentrated over the city of Baghdad and between the cities of Kut and Nasiriyah.
13 March	1 sortie concentrated in the area between southern Kut and Diwaniyah.
14 March	1 sortie in the region of western Amara, then in the direction of the city of Kut and the region of Samawah.
16 March	100 formations, including a group of 192 aircraft over the city of Baghdad, the region of Mandali, eastern Tikrit, the cities of Kut and Karbala and the region of kilometre 160.
17 March	162 sorties flown by 107 formations concentrated in the regions of Nukhayb, Kut, kilometre 160, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Tikrit, Mandali, Najaf and Kirkuk, breaking the sound barrier over the city of Kirkuk.
18 March	67 formations, including a group of 148 aircraft concentrated in the region of western Rozazah and between Hayy, Kut, northwestern Khanaqin, kilometre 160, Rutbah, Qadisiyah, Najaf, Tharthar, Karbala, Kirkuk and Ramadi.
19 March	208 sorties flown by 108 formations concentrated in the region of Ramadi, eastern Nukhayb, Samarra, Kut, Hashimiyah, Baghdad (repeated sorties), Mandali, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah and Kirkuk.
20 March	288 sorties flown by 143 formations concentrated in the region of Miqdadiyah, Suwayrah, Kut, Rozazah, Samarra, Tikrit, Hashimiyah, Habbaniyah and Baghdad.
23 March	171 sorties flown by 81 formations concentrated in the areas of southern Baghdad, Qadisiyah, eastern Baghdad, Habbaniyah, Ramadi, Tikrit, Kut, Karbala, Khanaqin and Najaf, flying at altitudes ranging from 3 to 7.5 kilometres and at a speed of 720 kilometres per hour; in addition, the United States Air Force downed two PC-9 aircraft in the northern region.
24 March	124 sorties flown by 62 formations and concentrated on the cities of Baghdad, Kut and Rozazah. Altitudes were between 7 and 8 kilometres, and the speed was 750 kilometres per hour.

Date	Details
25 March	128 sorties flown by 65 formations. The aircraft flew at altitudes of 2 to 9 kilometres and at a speed of 800 kilometres per hour. The aircraft were identified as F-14s and F-15s. The aircraft focused on the areas of southern Baghdad, northern Baghdad and the city of Baghdad. The objective of the aircraft was to engage in surveillance and provocation, since they flew over the city of Baghdad several times.
26 March	126 sorties flown by 63 formations. The aircraft flew at altitudes of 2 to 8 kilometres and at a speed of 800 kilometres per hour. The aircraft were identified as F-15s and F-14s. The aircraft focused on the city of Baghdad, southern Baghdad, northern Baghdad and the western region. The objective of the aircraft was to engage in surveillance and provocation, since they flew over the city of Baghdad several times.
27 March	167 sorties flown by 72 formations. The altitude of the aircraft was between 6 and 7.5 kilometres and was, at times, very low. The speed of the aircraft was between 700 and 850 kilometres per hour. The aircraft were identified as F-15s and F-14s. The aircraft focused on the city of Baghdad and the areas to the west and east of Baghdad. The aircraft engaged in reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation, since they passed over the city of Baghdad at a very low altitude several times.
28 March	102 sorties flown by 46 formations. The altitude of the enemy flights was between 5 and 9 kilometres, and the speed of the aircraft was 750 kilometres per hour. The aircraft were identified as F-15s, F-14s and F-16s. The aircraft focused on the city of Baghdad, Kut, Diwaniyah, southern Baghdad and kilometre 160. The aircraft engaged in reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation, since they flew over the city of Baghdad several times.
29 March	97 sorties flown by 46 formations. The altitude of the aircraft was between 3.5 and 7 kilometres, and the speed was between 600 and 720 kilometres per hour. The aircraft were identified as F-16s, F-15s and F-14s. The aircraft focused on the city of Baghdad and the area to the east of it and on the area of Tharthar and kilometre 160. The objective was reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation.

The continuation of these unjustified acts of aggression and provocation night and day and in the blessed month of Ramadan represents nothing but disdain for the feelings of the Muslims of Iraq and all the Muslims of the world, contempt for their religious beliefs and a disturbance of the peace and security of Iraqis in this important month.

We wonder about the motives behind these sorties. Are they aimed at inducing Iraqi air defences to strike a treacherous blow? Or are they acts of provocation intended to humiliate Iraq and take revenge on its people? Do the Security Council resolutions include the humiliation of the Iraqi people, revenge on it, disdain for its religious feelings and harassment and terrorization of fasting Iraqis? Do the Security Council resolutions include alarming women and children, disturbing the sick and depriving them of sleep at night and peace by day?

In addition to the above, I wish to add that United States forces carried out the acts described below, which constitute a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a contravention of any international legitimacy that the occupation of the territory of Iraq might have:

1. On 12 March 1991, United States armoured forces entered the western part of the city of Nasiriyah as a result of mortar-fire being directed against them by saboteurs. The forces withdrew to their former positions after being informed by the inhabitants that it was not the army that had fired on them but saboteur elements.

2. On 15 March 1991, a United States force destroyed three tank transporters loaded with tanks on the Barjasiyah-Zubayr road and searched officers of the evacuation group and confiscated their light weapons.

3. On 27 March 1991, United States forces in four helicopters approached to within a distance of 1 kilometre of the highway bridge leading to and from Nasiriyah. They remained in the area for a period of 15 minutes. There is information that United States forces detained a number of soldiers.

4. On 28 March 1991, a company of United States tanks advanced, approached to within a distance of 2 kilometres of the town of Suq al-Shuyukh and took up positions facing the town. A squadron of tanks proceeded at speed along the highway in the direction of Nasiriyah.

5. On 20 March 1991, an aircraft belonging to the coalition forces shot down a Sukhoi-22 aircraft near the Air Force College at Tikrit.

We place these facts before the eyes of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the members of the Security Council and the States, peoples, and organizations of the world in the hope that the world may comprehend the extent reached by United States excess in the unjustified use of force contrary to the resolutions of the Security Council and the flouting of the feelings of Muslims in this noble month.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative